Growth of food processing industries in Maharashtra

*85. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State of Maharashtra has the requisite potential for the growth of food processing industries;

(b) if so, what incentives are being provided by the Central Government to the food processing industries in the State with details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure rapid growth of food processing industries in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) There is enough potential for developing food processing units in the State of Maharashtra. With a view to encourage investment for food processing industries, Government have liberalised its policies and have delicensed all food processing industries except distillation and brewing of alcoholic beverages, sugar and those items reserved for small scale sector. Government also permits foreign equity investment for setting up of food processing industries. Various other incentives like liberalisation of foreign technology agreements and fiscal reliefs for food processing industries have already been granted.

Ministry also operates some Plan Schemes under which financial assistance is extended in respect of proposals received through State Governments for setting up/upgrading food processing units in the joint venture, assisted/ cooperative sector or private sector, etc. Financial assistance under the plan schemes has been extended in respect of such proposals covering fruits & vegetable processing, meat & poultry processing, fisheries, grain processing, etc. to the extent of Rs. 396.71 lakhs, during the first 3 years of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Construction of By-Pass Road in Tamil Nadu

*86. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to lay a by-pass road for about 8.3 Kms. on N.H. 7 at Namakkal, Salem district, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the land for the above purpose has been acquired;

(c) whether the Central Government are going to allocate funds for the purpose during the current financial year and if so, the quantum thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of land acquisition for Namakkal By-pass on National Highway 7 in Salem District was sanctioned for Rs. 83.11 Lakh in November, 1992 and the work is in progress.

(c) and (d) A sum of Rs. 12.5 crores has been allocated during 1995-96 for normal developmental works, including the above work, on National Highways in Tamil Nadu.

मध्य प्रदेश और हरियाणा में सचांर नेटवर्क में सुधार

*87. **श्री अजीत जोगी** :

श्री एस.एस. सुरजेवाला :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगें कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मध्य प्रदेश और हरियाणा में टेलीफोन, डाक एवं तार सेवाओं में सुधार लाने का विचार रखती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान इन राज्यों द्वारा अर्जित राजस्व अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में अधिक था;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान इन सेवाओं पर कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई;

(ड.) वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान इन सेवाओं में कितना सुधार हुआ;